

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the November 30, 2010 Office Action. Claims 1, 15, 17, 21, and 22 have been amended and claims 2, 13, and 14 have been cancelled. Support for the claim amendments may be found, for example, in the present specification at page 14, line 13 to page 16, line 9. Claims 1, 3-12, and 15-24 will be pending upon entry of this Amendment.

Claims 1-8 and 13-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by United States Patent No. 6,575,100 to Faucher et al. Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over Faucher in view of United States Patent No. 5,056,753 to Lunau et al. Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over Faucher in view of United States Patent No. 2,598,570 to Lewis. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

...a trolley to which a load may be attached, movably mounted on an external surface of the load support member and having wheels such that access to the wheels of the trolley without the disassembly of the frame is facilitated, the trolley and load support member being sized and shaped to permit the trolley to move along the load support member, wherein the load support member comprises a first elongate member with a first wheel-bearing surface coupled to the first support leg and a second elongate member with a second wheel-bearing surface coupled to the second support leg, the elongate members being sized and shaped such that the first elongate member is axially slidably mateable with the second elongate member to form said load support member and the first and second wheel-bearing surfaces are sized and positioned so as to permit the trolley to move continuously from the first elongate member to the second elongate member.

The Faucher patent fails to disclose a trolley movably mounted on an external surface of a load support member and having wheels such that access to the wheels of the trolley without disassembly of the frame is facilitated as recited in independent claim 1. The Examiner at page 2 of the Office Action asserts that the traveling surfaces (42, 44) of the support of

Faucher define an external surface. As discussed in the present specification at pages 2 and 3, however, the trolley of Faucher is mounted on an internal, hollow portion of the support, not the external surface of the support member. Further, even if the traveling surfaces (42, 44) of Faucher can be considered external surfaces, access to the wheels (32) of the trolley (30) of Faucher without disassembly of the frame is not facilitated as recited in independent claim 1. The Examiner does not appear to address this feature in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that a functional limitation must be evaluated and considered just like any other limitation of the claim (see MPEP § 2173.05(g)).

The Lunau patent discloses a post-like safety support structure and is relied upon by the Examiner to disclose a height adjustment arrangement having threaded shafts and stop members. The Lewis patent discloses a hoist for transporting patients and is relied upon by the Examiner to disclose stabilizer feet having a width shorter than a length of the feet and where the feet are positioned such that the feet extend perpendicularly to the plane of the frame in an assembled condition. Neither the Lunau patent nor the Lewis patent overcome the deficiencies of Faucher noted above.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

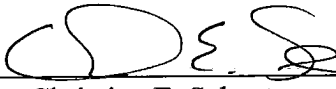
Claims 3-12, and 15-24 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are, therefore, believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

Application No. 10/575,115
Paper Dated: May 27, 2011
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of November 30, 2010
Attorney Docket No. 4316-061112

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that pending claims 1, 3-12, and 15-24 are patentable over the cited documents and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 1, 3-12, and 15-24 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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